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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ricoh Company Ltd.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

2

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 13, 30 November 1998 (1998-11-30) -& JP 10 224571 A (FUJI XEROX CO LTD), 21 August 1998 (1998-08-21)	1	H04N1/407 H04N1/401
Y	* abstract * * figures 1,2 *	2-4	
D,Y	US 6 323 933 B1 (ANZAI TOSHIKI) 27 November 2001 (2001-11-27) * column 2, line 15-34 * * column 6, line 53-58 * * column 7, line 37-53 * * claim 1 * * figure 1 *	2-4	
A	---	1	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10, 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31) -& JP 10 136167 A (RICOH CO LTD), 22 May 1998 (1998-05-22) * abstract *	6,7	
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A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 02, 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) -& JP 2001 298592 A (RICOH CO LTD), 26 October 2001 (2001-10-26) * abstract * * figure 6 *	1	
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A	US 2002/033968 A1 (CHEN MICHAEL) 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) * abstract * * paragraph '0011! * * paragraph '0014! * * paragraph '0031! * * figure 3 *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 2 April 2004	Examiner Roche, N
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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02-04-2004

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